has been encouraging the IITs to increase intake by optimal utilization of their existing facilities within the budgetary resources. Accordingly, IIT, Kharagpur has increased its intake by 46% over the last four years.

(b) to (d) IIT Kharagpur received a grant of Rs. 11.80 crores between 1995 and 1999 and not Rs. 13.80 crores. Most of the grants were fully utilized within the time schedule. In a few cases, there was time overrun because of time required for processing of orders and executing of works for infrastructure development. The Institute has been advised to do advance planning for expeditious utilization of grants for avoiding time overruns in future.

Professional Approach to Education

2030. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even half a century after Independence, education at primary, secondary and university levels has not achieved the desired objective of covering all school going children;

(b) if so, whether a study has been made to identify the bottlenecks, whether it is at management level or at the dispensation level in the institutions since management level so far has been with administrative class, rather than with educationists; and

(c) whether Government would adopt a professional approach in this regard as democratic functioning of the country is largely dependent on spread of education ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 contain a comprehensive framework to guide educational development in the country. Accordingly, several initiatives have been launched/or are on anvil to meet the challenges of access, quality and consolidation. These include District Primary Education Programme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Operation Blackboard, Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education, Mid-day Meals

Scheme, revamping of National Literacy Mission to enhance its functional effectiveness, vocationalisation of education, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Community Polytechnics, Development of Centres of Excellence at college and university levels, Autonomous Colleges, Open Learning System through Open Schools/ Open Universities, etc. Besides, Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Bill, 2001 aims at making right to free and compulsory education for children from 6-14 years of age as Fundamental Right. All these programmes/initiatives and interventions have resulted in a definite increase in enrolment and expansion of literacy in the country. Further, a number of Committees/Commissions, comprising eminent educationists, have been constituted in different sectors of education. Recommendations of these Committees are generally implemented within the broad framework of the NPE and POA. Efficacy of the implementation and strategies adopted pursuant to the NPE has been reviewed from time to time and appropriate modifications brought out.

Eligibility of N. V. Principals for Promotions

2031. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vice-Principals of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have to appear in a written examination and to pass it, to be eligible for promotion to the post of Principals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Vice-Principal candidates are not paid any TA/DA for appearing at the said examination; and

(c) if so, the justification, if any, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Since the tour undertaken by the Vice Principals while appearing for the exam to be conducted for the post of Principals is for their personal benefit, it was decided not to allow TA/DA for them for this purpose. However, now it has been decided by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to pay T.A. as per relevant rules.